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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF THE COWES URBAN DISTRICT

BY

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COUNTY HALL,
NEWPORT, I.W.
October, 1947.

To the Members of the Cowes Urban District Council :—

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1946.

I commenced duties as your Medical Officer of Health on March 1st, 1947, so that the Report is compiled from the records of my predecessor.

The birth rate for the year was up by 1·0 per 1000, the death rate is raised from 12·99 to 13·6 per 1000, and the infantile mortality rate has increased by 1·3 per 1000.

The number of notifications of infectious disease was materially reduced 71, as compared with 128 in the previous year, but the number of cases of Whooping Cough increased from 3 to 14, and 1 case of Diphtheria occured.

The shortage of houses continues and we cannot look for much improvement in the health of the public till adequate accommodation is available for all.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN MILLS,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in acres	5542
No. of inhabited houses (per rate books)	4765
Rateable value	£113,852
Sum represented by a penny rate	£437

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

These are unchanged since the last report.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Population (Registrar General's Figures)	15,420
Live birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population	20·3
Still birth rate per 1000 total (live and still) births ...	28·0
Death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population	13·6
Puerperal death rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	9·3
Infantile Mortality:—	
All infants per 1000 live births	22·4
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate births ...	24·1
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate births ...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	37
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) ...	Nil

BIRTHS.

The total number of live births was 313, giving a live birth rate per 1000 living of 20·3. The corresponding rate for England and Wales being 19·1.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths was 209 giving a death rate of 13·6 per 1000 of the estimated resident population. The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 11·5.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The Infant Mortality rate was 22·4 per 1000 registered live births, the rate for England and Wales being 43·0.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

Complaints continue to be received from the higher parts of Northwood, of the pressure being inadequate and that those houses without storage tanks had periods in the day when they were without water.

In West Cowes water is supplied from a deep well and from land drained water passing into large open reservoirs. It also has a supply from Newport.

Bacteriological examination of the water in the open reservoirs showed varying degrees of pollution with Coli-Aerogenes organisms of both surface soil and fæcal type. After filtration through pressure sand filters followed by chlorination, no evidence of harmful pollution was found.

The raw water from the Broadfields Pumping Station on two occasions showed slight pollution with Coli-Aerogenes bacteria of the surface soil type, but tests after chlorination showed no evidence of harmful pollution.

Examinations made of the West Cowes main supply and chlorinated water from the filter house, were satisfactory.

The water supply to East Cowes is from both a deep well and from the Newport supply. Quarterly examination of the raw and treated water revealed no evidence of harmful pollution.

The number of samples examined was 21.

SECTION D.
HOUSING.

Two-hundred and twelve houses were inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts and as a result 186 houses were found not reasonably fit for human habitation.

One hundred and ninety-one defective dwelling houses were rendered fit as the result of informal action.

SECTION E.
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

All animals are now slaughtered at Government controlled Slaughter Houses in Newport. Ryde or Wroxall.

When carcases and offal arrive at Allocation Centre, weekly inspection is again carried out before being passed on to local butchers.

UNSOUND FOOD.

The following table shows the amount of unsound food dealt with during the year: —

Hind Quarter of Beef Unsound		...	...	35 lbs.
Beef Trimmings	,,	...	...	28 ,,
Bacon	,,	...	...	29½ ,,
Eggs	,,	...	...	1,272
Butter	,,	...	...	11 lbs.
Margarine	,,	...	...	60 ,,
Tea	,,	...	...	3½ ,,
Cheese	,,	...	...	70 ,,
Bread	,,	...	...	107 ,,
Sausages	,,	...	...	162 ,,
Sugar	,,	...	...	5 ,,
Meat Pies	,,	...	...	204
Fish Cakes	,,	...	...	84

Fish (fresh and smoked)	,,	...	...	488	lbs.
Sultanas	,,	...	...	30	,,
Raisins	,,	...	...	60	,,
Corned Beef	,,	...	...	2072	,,
Biscuits	,,	...	...	7	,,
Rolled Oats	,,	...	...	28	,,

In addition, 727 tins containing fish, fruit, milk, vegetables, etc., weighing 924 lbs. were found to be unsound.

All the above was taken to Newport to be used for the manufacture of artificial manure for the Ministry of Food.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There were 71 notifications of infectious diseases, 2 being of Scarlet Fever and 51 of Measles. There was one case of Diphtheria. Immunisation against this disease commenced in 1939 and although only 31·4 of the children under five are immunised the percentage among children of school age is 69·3.

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases among school children.

Mumps	21
Chicken Pox	51
Ringworm	3
Scabies	1
German Measles	1
Impetigo	—
Influenza	—
Influenzal Colds	—
Jaundice	1
	78

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Dysentery	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever...	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	2	2	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	*1
Pneumonia	1	—	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—
Measles	51	1	—
Whooping Cough ...	14	—	—
Totals ...	71	4	*1

*This case was not notified.

AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.

Age.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Whooping Cough	Measles	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Dysentery	Encephalitis Lethargica
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
1 and under 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—
2 ,, 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	—	—	—	—
3 ,, 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	—	—	—	—
4 ,, 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	11	—	—	—	—
5 ,, 10	1	—	—	—	—	—	6	21	—	—	—	—
10 ,, 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
15 ,, 20	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 ,, 35	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 ,, 45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 ,, 65	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	1	—	—	1	2	14	51	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.	Totals.	New Cases.				Totals.	Deaths.			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F
0 and under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 ,, ,, 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 ,, ,, 10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 ,, ,, 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 ,, ,, 20	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
20 ,, ,, 25	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 ,, ,, 35	7	3	4	—	—	2	1	1	—	—
35 ,, ,, 45	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 ,, ,, 55	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 ,, ,, 65	2	2	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—
65 and upwards	3	1	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Total ...*	19	11	8	—	—	‡6	2	4	—	—

*Included in this total are six transfers from the mainland and one old case "lost sight of" and returned.

‡Includes two cases in which the Death Returns gave the first information.